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THE  
MONTHLY



GULL  
BULLETIN

Volume 52

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June 1970

Number 6

### GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON DINNER—JUNE 11

Chris Nelson, Chief of the Interpretive Department of the East Bay Regional Parks, will be our guest speaker at the annual Golden Gate Audubon dinner on **Thursday, June 11**, at the Helmet Club, Berkeley. He will discuss the future possibilities of the Bay Area Audubon Council and nature interpretation—a positive approach.

This annual dinner meeting will include election of officers for 1970/71. Mrs. Frances Ellen Fallgatter is Chairman of the Nominating Committee.

Dinner will begin at **7 p.m.** at the Helmet Club on Bolivar Drive at the foot of Addison Street, north end of Berkeley's Aquatic Park. The reservation deadline will be **Monday, June 8**. For reservations write Mrs. Ray Ericson, 222 LaSalle Ave., Piedmont 94610 (832-2330). Please clip or copy the following form and send it to Mrs. Ericson with your check payable to Golden Gate Audubon Society. (Tickets will not be sent; a list of names will be at the door and your check is your receipt.)

Enclosed is my check for \$..... for ..... dinners at \$5 inc. tax.....

Name ..... Phone .....

Address .....

Mrs. Myra Browne, one of our active Past Presidents, has volunteered to help with decorations.

### COVEL'S CONSERVATION CORNER

We hasten to remove the image of obstructionist from the U.S. Bureau of the Budget, which information available at writing of our May column led us to indicate. A letter from the Bureau—and Art Lampert's article in the May Sierra Club *Yodeler*—explain that the Dept. of the Interior itself recommended that Congress hold no hearings on the South Bay National Wildlife Refuge bills until Interior can conduct a study on the "potential long-range environmental benefits to both people and wildlife." The sum of \$100,000 must be appropriated for this study which might require a full year to complete. Meanwhile, our B.C.D.C. wants a decision before the end of 1970 in order to include the refuge in the Bay Master Plan to be sent to the Legislature!

More cheerful news on South Bay preservation came at April's end, when Nature Conservancy announced it had acquired an option for pur-

chase of 80 acres of marsh and tideland at Dumbarton Point. The Conservancy will need generous donations to complete this purchase in addition to the \$300,000 Tubbs Island project in San Pablo Bay. Meanwhile, eight parcels of tideland totalling 43.5 acres along Marin shores have been given to the Conservancy. And Leslie Salt and the City of Fremont have just placed 13,000 acres of salt ponds in an "agricultural preserve," as authorized by the Williamson Act of 1969.

Despite the lofty phrases and resolutions emanating from the State Administration and various Legislators concerning our environment and the need for ecology teaching, these worthy gentlemen (and ladies) up to early May were ready to let the Conservation Education Service in the State Dept. of Education expire when a federal ESEA support fund terminated. Assemblyman Geo. W. Milius, Chairman of the Assembly Committee of Natural Resources and Conservation, has introduced a bill which would establish a permanent Bureau of Conservation Education with a Citizens' Advisory Committee to be "broadly representative of educational, professional and environmental interests." A minuscule tax on crude oil, natural gas, timber, sand, gravel and cement would finance this new program. Says Mr. Milius: "If we can spend \$15,000,000 each year on driver education to teach our young people how to survive on the highways, we ought to be spending a comparable amount teaching them how to survive—period."

In fairness we must report that other Assemblymen and State Senators are throwing many conservation and environmental bills into the hopper. Assemblyman Alan Sieroty (of Los Angeles!) has sent us a list of thirteen such bills introduced by him. One of these bills—A.B. 730—would create a California Coastline Conservation and Development Commission. And this leads into my final paragraph for this month.

Representing the Golden Gate Audubon Society at the April 16 Santa Rosa hearings of the Environmental Quality Study Council on the Jenner-Russian River dredging proposals was very rewarding and revealing. After a spirited all-day session with pro and con witnesses, the Council unanimously recommended that the Sonoma County supervisors withhold dredging permits until the Legislature acts on the coastline preservation bills—or at least until the end of 1970. The answer of the Board of Supervisors was expected early in May.—PAUL F. COVEL, *Conservation Chairman*.

The Golden Gate Audubon Board of Directors at the May meeting voted to send contributions to The Nature Conservancy (Bay Project) and to Point Reyes Bird Observatory (Farallon Islands project). Additional donations are needed to The Nature Conservancy, S.F. Bay Project c/o Wells Fargo Bank, P.O. Box 26687, San Francisco CA 94126 and to the Point Reyes Bird Observatory, Mesa Road, Bolinas, CA 94924.

#### FIELD TRIPS FOR JUNE

**Saturday, June 6,** Yosemite National Park. Meet no later than 7:45 a.m. at the main post office in the Government Center. The trip will start

*Promptly* at 8 a.m. To help defray the leaders' expenses there will be a \$1 charge for all adults attending. In order to help reduce traffic and smog in Yosemite it is important that participants consolidate in as few cars as possible. Bring lunch. Leaders: Dr. A. Laurence Curl, 939-5841 and A. Warren Larson, 525-9149.

**Saturday, June 20**, a hike along the shores of three lovely lakes on the north side of Mt. Tamalpais, where a variety of birds can be seen and heard. A good field trip for newcomers and families. The trip will begin *promptly* at **8:30 a.m.** from the public parking lot in Fairfax, Marin County. Bring knapsack lunch. Leaders: Miss Patricia Triggs and Mrs. Olga Laist.

If you wish to see nesting Bank Swallows in June, walk along the beach near San Francisco's Fleishhacker Zoo.—MRS VALERIA G. DA-COSTA, *Field Trips Chairman*.

#### PARK NATURALIST PROGRAMS

**Oakland Park Department** has scheduled the following talks and walks of interest to Audubon members:

**Sunday, June 7**—“Our Birds of Prey—The persecuted,” an illustrated talk by Assistant Naturalist Lionel Kett at 2:30 p.m. in the Rotary Natural Science Center, Bellevue & Perkins, Lakeside Park.

**Saturday, June 13**—“The Redwood and Chaparral in Late Spring,” a nature walk with the Park Naturalist, Paul Covel, in the Upper Sequoia area of Joaquin Miller Park, meeting at 9:30 a.m. at Sequoia Arena Entrance on Skyline Blvd. The walk ends by noon.

**Sunday, June 14**—“The Plantings and Story of Lakeside Park,” a Naturalist’s walk, meeting at the Memorial Bandstand at close of concert about 4:10 p.m.

**Sunday, June 21**—“Outdoor Hazards in Nature—How to Avoid Them,” a Naturalist’s demonstration in the Natural Science Center at 2:30 p.m. “The Living Bird” and “Bird Homes,” two short, colorful studies of common birds on film in the Natural Science Center at 4:15 p.m.

**Sunday, June 28**—“Seeing and Understanding the Sierra Nevada,” an illustrated lecture by the Park Naturalist in the Natural Science Center at 2:30 p.m. “California: The Mountains and The Valley,” two excellent educational films shown in the Center at 4:15 p.m.

“How to Plan Your Family Mountain or Coast Vacation in the West,” an easel display, and “Early Summier Wildflowers” will be featured among new or changing exhibits in the Rotary Natural Science Center in June.

Paul Covel has prepared a mimeographed checklist of the common land birds of the Eastbay cities and Oakland hills.

In addition to the **East Bay Regional Park District’s** schedule listed in the May *Gull*, the following special events are planned:

**Tuesday, June 23**—Leader Training Program—Ecology and Use of the Bay for Youth Group Leaders, Counsellors, etc., 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Alameda Beach Park.

**Wednesday, June 24**—Leader Training Program—Ecology and Use of the Regional Parks, Safety in the Outdoors, for Youth Group Leaders, etc., in Tilden Nature Area, Berkeley.

**Saturday, July 4**—“Lester Litterbug” puppet show in Tilden Nature Area, Berkeley, 12 noon to 12:30 and 1 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Also a Family Nature Walk, 2:30 p.m. to 4. Meet by the Little Farm.

For further information please call the Tilden Nature Area Office, 524-1034, between 1 and 4 on Monday, Wednesday, Friday.

### FIELD TRIP REPORTS

The April 4th trip to Audubon Canyon Ranch was well attended by enthusiastic newcomers. Mr. and Mrs. Walter McLaren, who diligently oversee the ranch throughout the year, greeted the group before we hiked to the famous heron and egret rookery. A number of stops were made en route to listen to the spring chorus of nesting birds. There were many downy Great Blue Herons being tenderly cared for by the parent birds while nearby the Common Egrets were still busily turning their eggs. At Canyon Ranch headquarters, Ranch Naturalist Clerin Zumwalt guided the group through the museum and nature center.

On the April 18th trip to Pescadero Marsh, south peninsula, led by Mrs. Marty Miller, a number of American Bitterns were seen and a representative of LIFE (Local Initiative For Environment) enlightened us on the possible destruction of this fine marsh area for a proposed dam.  
—MRS. VALERIA G. DaCOSTA, *Field Trips Chairman*.

Livermore trip, April 25 and 26—Because of the usually heavy attendance, this field trip is always scheduled for both Saturday and Sunday. The combination of the change to daylight saving time and the rainy weather this year reduced the Sunday group, but we still had some 50 people in the two days. Among the highlights of the 40 species of birds seen were: Phainopepla; Bullock’s Oriole; Greater Yellowlegs (a surprise on Saturday); Ash-throated Flycatcher; California Thrasher; Golden Eagle (Saturday); MacGillivray’s Warbler (Sunday); Barn, Cliff, Violet-green, and Rough-winged Swallows; and a Red-shafted Flicker excavating a large nesting hole right in a cliff. One of the Saturday observers thought she saw a Prairie Falcon—which is likely, as a Prairie Falcon was seen a little later at the same place by another group. Our thanks go to Mrs. McCoy for her graciousness in letting us visit the ranch each year. The Golden Gate Audubon Society has been going there for 37 years. We hope that we will have the opportunity to continue to watch birds there for many more years.—ERLINE HEVEL, *Sunday leader and historian*.  
—AILEEN PIERSON, *Saturday leader and historian*.

April 26th pelagic trip to the Farallon Islands—170 hardy seafarers boarded the “Blue Horizon” and the “Paul G” with Alan Baldridge, Ronald Branson, Jim Lewis and Rich Stallcup as leaders. After a brief rain shower and one hour of rough water, the sun came out when the boats reached the Farallon Islands. The highlights were 10 pairs of Tufted Puffins in breeding plumage, hundreds of Bonaparte’s Gulls in breeding plumage, 700 Sooty Shearwaters, 300 Cassin’s Auklets on the water, 20

Rhinoceros Auklets, 100 Kittiwakes, 2 Pomarine Jaegers, 6 Black-footed Albatross. Point Reyes Bird Observatory personnel are doing an excellent job on bird research and monitoring the islands. They need your continued financial support through additional memberships and memorial gifts, etc. (PRBO, Mesa Road, Bolinas, CA 94924)—MRS. VALERIA G. DA-COSTA.

### OBSERVATIONS CALENDAR

April 7—Last day for *Indigo Bunting* at Marshall Jencks' feeder, Oakland.  
 April 11—*Hooded Merganser* female still on Jewel Lake, Tilden Park.  
 April 11 and 21—*Grasshopper Sparrows* singing in full view in Briones Regional Park, Contra Costa County—Larry Curl.  
 April 14—Partial albino *Red-tailed Hawk* still near Lafayette Reservoir—Gladys Eaton.  
 April 17—*Red-necked Grebe* in breeding plumage, Bodega Harbor—Bill Pursell.  
 April 23—Hundreds of *Eared Grebes* in breeding plumage on salt ponds near Coyote Hills Regional Park.  
 April 24—*Calliope Hummingbirds*, 2 males & 1 female, in Tilden Nature Area—Hans M. Johansen. (A pair still there on May 2—Bill Pursell.)  
 April 28—*Calliope Hummingbird* at monkeyflower, south of Del Valle Reservoir (near Livermore)—Larry Curl, Bill Pursell et al. Also *Vaux's Swift* over Mines Road near Livermore.  
 May 3—*Osprey* flying over Lake Merritt, Oakland—Harold Cannon.  
 May 5—*Fulvous Tree Duck* still in Coyote Hills Regional Park. Also a *Yellow-headed Blackbird* female and a *Bank Swallow*. Three *Wandering Tattlers* near Dumbarton Bridge in proposed South S.F. Bay Refuge area—Bill Pursell et al. Also *Ruddy Turnstones*, *Northern Phalaropes* in breeding plumage, and Black-necked Stilts with "chicks-on-stilts."

### AUDUBON CANYON RANCH

Golden Gate Audubon Society is responsible for hosting at Canyon Ranch on weekends in June and early July. To volunteer for this duty, please phone Kathy Higgs in Pacifica (355-6264) or write to Mrs. Higgs,



### AUDUBON CANYON RANCH, BOLINAS LAGOON

**Under joint sponsorship of Bay Area Audubon  
Societies to protect a major rookery of Common  
Egrets and Great Blue Herons.**

340 Esplanade, Apt. 20, Pacifica 94044. Canyon Ranch will be open to the public through July 5 on weekends without appointment, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Groups may make appointments for week-day visits by writing to Audubon Canyon Ranch, Shoreline Highway, Stinson Beach 94970 (phone 383-1644).

"Motorland" Magazine featured Canyon Ranch in April, and subsequently more than 1000 people visited the Ranch each Saturday and Sunday. The record was 1264 on Sunday, April 5. On several occasions six Snowy Egrets have been seen flying in to roost and recently one pair was building a nest.

Dr. Martin Griffin, the Chairman of Canyon Ranch, and Clerin Zumwalt, the Naturalist, will be speakers on a Special Program of U.C. Extension entitled *The Conservation Movement in California History*. They will discuss "The Audubon Canyon Ranch: A Case Study in the Preservation of Wildlife by Non-Governmental Organizations" on Saturday, June 27 in Berkeley.

### APPRECIATION AND MEMORIAL GIFTS

Gifts of remembrance were made to Audubon Canyon Ranch:

*In Memory of:* *Gift of:*  
 Dr. Milan Logan ..... Ida E. Logan, Dr. Leonie Logan Jenkins, and  
Allen G. Jenkins

Mrs. Lydia Benson ..... Helen G. Roller  
 Hazel Tetschner ..... Helen G. Roller

*In Appreciation of:*

Mrs. Max Gardner ..... The T.F.O. Club  
 DR. ALBERT BOLES, *Sanctuary & Memorial Fund Chairman*

### AUDUBON NATURE TRAINING PROGRAM

Mrs. Aida Brenneis thanks all who sent wildlife pictures to her. She appreciates the fine response to her request and was glad to have the assistance of a volunteer paster. She now has enough pictures of birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, fish and insects, but still needs drawings or photos of such invertebrates as earthworms, slugs, snails, sea cucumbers, shellfish, etc. Please send them to her care of Audubon Nature Training, P.O. Box 103, Berkeley, CA 94701.

### "THE STOWAWAY"

Driving home to Belmont April 11th after the Sequoia Audubon trip to Tilden Park in Berkeley, Roy and Fran Nelson heard a high-pitched shrill cry. They were on the Bayshore Freeway and wondered if they were hearing a low-flying gull. Twenty minutes later in their garage they heard the same cry three times. They quickly checked under the hood and in the trunk, but found nothing. On a final inspection of the engine, they saw a squirrel crawling up over the air cleaner. He looked dazed after his unexpected 40-mile trip through downtown Berkeley, across the Bay Bridge and on the freeway!

While Roy put on a glove to pick him up, the squirrel retreated to an inaccessible corner of the chassis. The Nelsons then had to push the car outside to reach the terrified animal. His grip on the car was so strong that Roy had to pry him loose. They gave him water, food and a comfortable box. The exhausted squirrel slept until 9:30 the next morning, when the Nelsons kindly took him all the way back to the Tilden Regional Park Nature Area. Tilden's squirrel took a five-foot leap from the Nelsons' box into the underbrush—happy to be home at last!

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**NEW EDITION OF "MARIN FLORA"**

June 1 is the publication date of the second edition of *Marin Flora: Manual of the Flowering Plants and Ferns of Marin County, California* by John Thomas Howell. Originally published in 1949, the new edition of this authoritative work will serve a whole new generation of botanists, naturalists, teachers, students and wildflower photographers. The author is Curator of Botany, Emeritus, at the California Academy of Sciences. He has been a popular speaker at recent Golden Gate Audubon Society meetings; one of his topics was "Interesting Endemics of California."

The new edition of *Marin Flora* incorporates all the new floristic information in a 39-page Supplement with its own index. In his preface to the second edition, Dr. Howell states that indigenous plants new to the flora of Marin County include 4 genera, 26 species, 23 subspecies, varieties, or forms and 7 named hybrids. Naturalized plants new to the flora are 1 family, 37 genera, 99 species, 7 subspecies, varieties, or forms. Five genera, 7 species and 8 subspecies, varieties, or forms have been deleted by union with another taxonomic group. As a result the new *Marin Flora* includes 1023 indigenous species and 408 introduced species. The Supplement also lists 101 name changes and the entries have page references to the original key section. The new edition has 366 pages and 24 black-and-white photographs of Marin County's natural beauty by Charles T. Townsend—published by the University of California Press, Berkeley (\$10).

**WANTED: MARINE MARSH BIRD SLIDES**

An author is searching for photographs of marine marsh birds to accompany an article on The Marine Marsh for a national magazine. They will be sent to the magazine on a speculative basis. Photographers whose pictures are selected for publication will receive payment and a by-line. The following photos are needed: California Clapper Rail, Least and American Bittern, Marsh Hawk, Snowy and Common Egret, Black Brant, Grebe, Pintail and Mallard or other marine marsh life. The background must be marshy. Photographs taken in a zoo or museum will *not* be accepted. All photos must be 35 mm Kodachrome or Ektachrome slides. Originals are preferred, but you may first submit duplicates to the author. If your duplicate slide is selected for submission to the magazine, the original will also be required. All slides must be labeled with the photographer's name, bird, and location.

Please mail or take slides to "Marine Marsh" c/o Rotary Natural Science Center, Bellevue & Perkins, Lake Merritt, Oakland 94610. Photographers whose slides are chosen will be notified. The other slides will be promptly returned by mail. Anyone wishing further information may come to the Rotary Natural Science Center from 2 to 5 on June 7, July 12, or August 30 and speak with the author, Marina Dengler, or phone her at (415) 922-9559.

**Binocular repairs**—Many Golden Gate Audubon members have inquired about where to take binoculars to be cleaned and repaired. Two of our members recommend Alex Ophir of San Francisco (982-2362) and Richard Anderson of Berkeley (841-1633).



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JUNE

## GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Established January 25, 1917 A Branch of the National Audubon Society since 1948

President	Joshua Barkin	Tilden Park Nature Area, Berkeley	94708	524-2495
Vice President	Mrs. Richard Johnson	1127 El Centro Ave. Oakland	94602	533-7118
Vice President	Roger H. Coffee	220 Palo Alto Ave., San Francisco	94114	566-4105
Treasurer	Edward Ormondroyd	2736 Russell St., Berkeley	94705	549-1385
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Corresponding Secretary	Mrs. Raymond Higgs	340 Esplanade No. 20, Pacifica	94044	355-6264
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Membership Secretary	Mrs. Zella Cushman	3156 Gough, San Francisco	94123	673-5310
Nature Training	Miss Phyllis Lindley	P.O. Box 103, Berkeley	94701	549-1038
Sanctuary & Memorial Fund Chairman	Dr. Albert Boles	854 Longridge Rd., Oakland	94610	451-6267
Wildlife Film Chairman	Mrs. Frances Ellen Fallgatter	406 El Cerrito, Piedmont	94611	655-9582
Conservation Chairman	Paul F. Covel	2860 Delaware St., Oakland	94602	536-4120
Canyon Ranch Film Crmn.	Mrs. Bonnie Smith	555 Dewey Blvd., San Francisco	94116	681-7635

Send address changes to Membership Secretary promptly; Post Office does not forward THE GULL. Monthly meetings second Thursday 7:30 p.m. Joint membership, Local & National \$10 per year, includes AUDUBON MAGAZINE and THE GULL. Subscription to THE GULL separately \$2 per year.

High school & college student membership \$6 per year.

The *Gull* deadline is the first of the month for the following month.